





# Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Jean Appleton

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

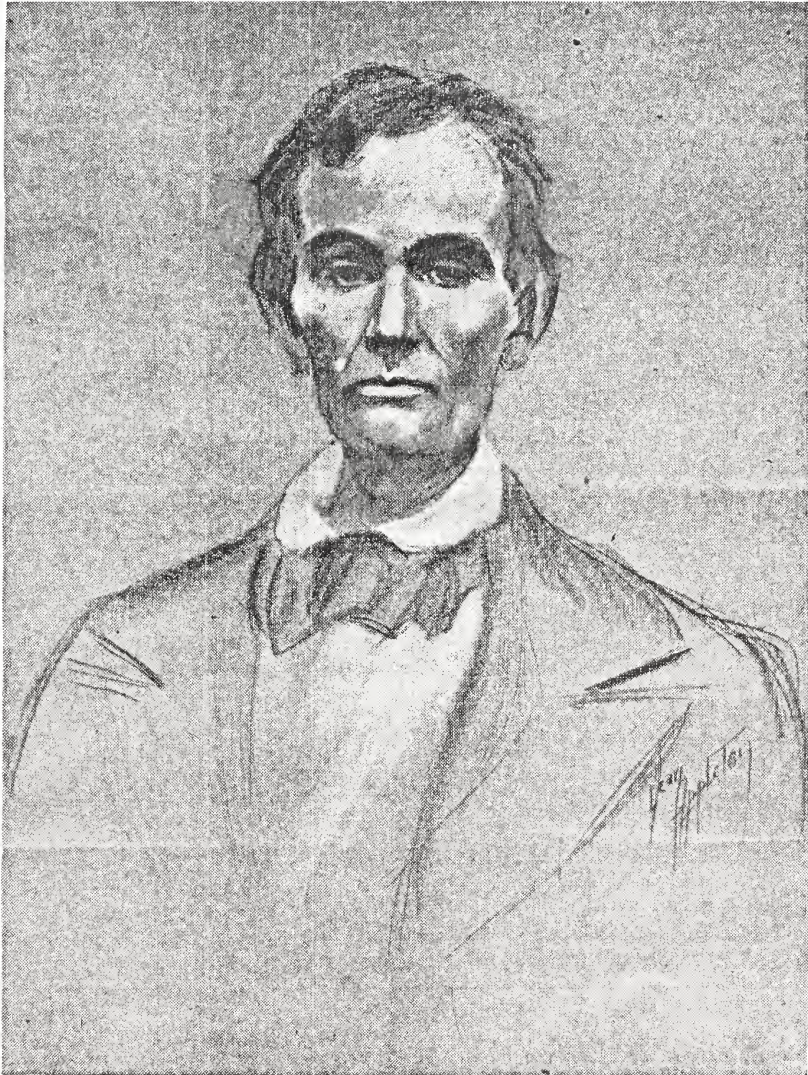
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## *Lincoln at the Threshold*



Conté-Crayon Drawing by Jean Appleton



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By Pearl Strachan

Staff Writer of  
The Christian Science Monitor

This is Abe Lincoln in Illinois, not yet sure of success in politics, or in anything else, but pledged to the support of individual freedom and the opposition of tyranny. "It is of the young Lincoln I like to think," says the artist, "simple and honest and strong." It is the backwoodsman, conscious of his awkwardness and lack of polish, who, at 23, had entered upon his candidacy for the General Assembly declaring himself in favor of free education as the most important need of the people.

Setting forth his ideas in the customary candidate's circular he had modestly stated, "I may be wrong . . . but, holding it as a

sound maxim that it is better only sometimes to be right than at all times to be wrong, so soon as I discover my opinions to be erroneous, I shall be ready to renounce them," and he had continued, "I am young, and unknown to many of you, I was born, and have ever remained, in the most humble walks of life. I have no wealth or popular relations or friends to recommend me. My case is thrown exclusively upon the independent voters of the county; and, if elected, they will have conferred a favor upon me for which I shall be unremitting in my labors to compensate. But if the good people in their wisdom shall see fit to keep me in the background. I have been too familiar with disappointments to be very much chagrined."

His first business venture had, through lack of the proper qualities in his associate, come to naught. Service, however, appeared always to be his aim, rather than profit. The humble job of postmaster, with its pittance of remuneration, furnished an opportunity for friendly contact with the scattered population of New Salem. If recipients of mail were not on hand at the Post Office when their letters arrived, he made it his personal responsibility to perform delivery, frequently trudging miles.

Periods of waiting between jobs did not trouble him. He had opportunity to study law and to think about the needs of other people. He learned early in life that "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven," that there is a "time to keep silence, and a time to speak." Franker than common with his own limitations he could not have

dreamed, as he split fence rails on the edge of the prairie, or toiled in the sawmill, or in the village store, of the career awaiting him. He could not have foreseen that the time would come when across the great United States practically every town or city would have its Lincoln Street, its Lincoln Avenue, its Lincoln School.

The courage to be himself, and his ability to face the facts he saw, combined with his innate gentleness and sympathy with humanity, so early manifest, were the qualities which appealed to Jean Appleton. She selected gray-green paper, and the medium of conte crayon, with chalk high-lights, for this portrait, which she evidently enjoyed drawing.







